

Southwest Virginia Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program

Academic Year 2008-2008

Scholarship Funds Provided by the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification & Community Revitalization Commission

The Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center is administering a \$1 million Burley Tobacco Tuition Assistance Program on behalf of the Virginia Tobacco Commission. The SW Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program assists eligible Southwest Virginia residents who were former Burley tobacco quota holders or growers and their direct descendants with up to \$2,000 for tuition and academic fees. Applicants must be enrolled in a degree-seeking program, Bachelor's or Master's, at an accredited 4-year accredited college or university. The college can be public or private, in-state or out-of-state. The SW Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program is designed to serve as a "last dollar effort" **after all other awarded gift assistance has been exhausted**. The scholarship is for tuition and fees only, and does not cover room and board, books and supplies. The scholarship program is limited to one degree per student or 4-years whichever happens first. Awards are based on cumulative GPA with the highest GPA being awarded first.

ALL AWARDS ARE DEPENDENT UPON THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FROM THE VA TOBACCO COMMISSION.

To be eligible you must be a current resident in one of the 14 counties listed below and be a Burley tobacco grower, quota holder, family member holding a quota from 1998 through 2004 or participating in the 2005 Federal Tobacco Buy Out. The family member must qualify as a direct descendant (child, grandchild, etc.). The scholarship is available to Southwest Virginia residents in one of the following counties: **Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Floyd, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe**. Both the quota holder or grower and the applicant must have a permanent mailing address in one of the 15 counties. However, the quota holder, grower, or worker and the applicant do not have to reside in the same Southwest Virginia county.

Family member is defined as the **spouse** of a tobacco grower/quota holder, or **child** of a parent who is a tobacco grower/quota holder, or whose grandparent is the grower/quota holder. Stepchildren or step-grandchildren also qualify. Nieces and nephews are not considered direct descendants.

Tobacco grower/quota holder is defined as a Virginia resident who is listed by the local Virginia Farm Service Agency office or who can provide documentation of being a quota holder or producer at any time during the indemnification years, 1998-2004. Support documentation can be a 156EZ or MQ-24 showing production during the indemnification years, 1998-2004 that can be obtained from the Farm Services Agency (FSA) OR a copy of the 1099G showing participation in the 2005 Federal Tobacco Buy Out.

Farm ownership does not define a person as being a quota holder or grower on said farm. Unless documentation showing the number of pounds of Burley Tobacco that could be (156EZ) or were (MQ-24) produced on any given farm OR a copy of a 1099 G showing participation in the 2005 Burley Tobacco Buy Out, an applicant cannot be considered for assistance through this program.

Virginia resident is defined as a person who has lived in Virginia for the last 12 months and has no ties with any other state including driver's license, tax returns, voter registration, or auto registration. Residents of other states who are attending school at a college or university in Southwest Virginia are not considered permanent residents of the area and, therefore, are not eligible for assistance through this program.

To Qualify:

1. Interested parties must apply for the scholarship on-line at www.tic.virginia.gov OR <http://tobacco.swcenter.edu> during the open application period of March 1, 2008 through December 15, 2008 **or until available funds are depleted**. Support documentation is due in the Tobacco Scholarship office no later than close of business on December 31, 2008. Eligibility letters will be issued on a monthly basis beginning in May, 2008. Qualifying applicants must complete the online workshop no later than close of business on January 15, 2009.

2. **All applicants** must provide the Tobacco Scholarship Office with an official transcript from the college/university last attended:
 - a. College freshman are required to submit a transcript (cumulative grade report) from their high school showing a cumulative GPA based on a 4.0 or 5.0 scale.
 - b. Applicants who carry 15 undergraduate or 9 graduate credit hours or more per semester will qualify for the full \$2,000 award.
 - c. Applicants who carry less than 15 undergraduate or 9 graduate credit hours per semester will qualify for a maximum of \$1,500.
3. Applicants must be a "degree-seeking" (Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral program) student at a 4-year accredited institution (in-state or out-of-state)
 - a. **Only students enrolled in a Bachelor's or Master's degree program are eligible for the award.***
 - Eligibility requirements for students who are interested in becoming teachers through the Alternative Route to Licensure as set forth by VA DOE must be (1) employed by a VA public or private school system under a provisional license; (2) enrolled in courses to satisfy the DOE requirements; and, (3) working under a licensed teacher who serves as a mentor. (See section 8 VAC 20-21-80 of the Virginia Licensure Regulations for School Personnel handbook available online at the VA Dept. of Education website.)

***Exception:** The following exception was implemented in 2006: Students who are enrolled in a **2-year degree program at a 4-year college or university** will be eligible to receive funding through the SW Burley Tobacco Scholarship, provided that the 2-year degree-program is not offered at the local community college serving that individual student.

4. Applicants need to know their Burley Tobacco Farm Number which is found on the 156EZ form or MQ-24 obtained from the local Farm Service Agencies in order to apply. (See listing below.)
 - a. If you are a new applicant who is applying as a **Family Member** you must provide:
 - a 156 EZ Form or MQ-24 from the FSA office to show burley tobacco production during the indemnification years, 1998-2004 OR a copy of the 1099G from the Federal Government to show participation in the 2005 Burley Tobacco Buyout;
 - and, a **NOTARIZED** letter from the quota holder, grower defining his/her relationship to the applicant. **APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED COMPLETE UNTIL WE RECEIVE A COPY THE 156EZ OR MQ-24 OR THE 1099G, AND THE NOTARIZED LETTER.**
 - **Applicants who have previously received funds from the SW Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program do not need to submit this paperwork.**
- b. If you are a renewal applicant, you need to submit an official transcript from the last college attended. (See item #2 above.)

NOTE: If the applicant is age 18 or older, he/she must complete an **Information Release Form** listing the names and relationship of the person(s) to whom information can be given. The link to this document will be available after application is successfully submitted.

- **A sample of the Notarized Letter and an Information Release Form are provided at the end of the application process. Please make sure the pop-up blocker is off for this website and Adobe 7.0 is downloaded onto the computer.**

5. Qualifying applicants **MUST** complete an online workshop and mail their Student Authorization Form to Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program, One Partnership Circle, P. O. Box 1987, Abingdon, VA 24212-1987 **to be received** no later than close of business one month after the date of the eligibility letter.

ALL award recipients are REQUIRED to complete an online Career Planning workshop to receive funding from the SW Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program. Each recipient will be required to complete the on-line workshop in its entirety and submit the requested paperwork to the office of the VA Tobacco Scholarship Administrator addressed to: SW Burley Tobacco Scholarship, One Partnership Circle, P. O. Box 1987, Abingdon, VA 24212-1987. The on-line workshop must be completed prior to the college being notified of the applicant's award.

NOTE: Coursework for the on-line workshop will be evaluated as part of the application process. Incomplete coursework or inadequate participation in the on-line workshop can result in forfeiture of your funds. Applicants will receive in-depth instructions regarding access to the on-line course in the eligibility letter that will be issued beginning in May, 2008. The date marked received in the VA Tobacco Scholarship Office will determine when the eligibility letter is printed.

Where do I obtain Form 156EZ and/or MQ-24? The Farm Service Agency (USDA office) can provide these forms.				
Floyd County Brent L. Noell 75 Hampton Blvd. Christiansburg , VA 24073 (540) 382-3961	Lee County Charles Ingram PO Box 130 Jonesville, VA 24263 (276) 346-1531	Scott County Gerry Johnson 95 US HWY 23S, Ste 1 Gate City, VA 24251 (276) 386-3951	Tazewell/Buchanan County Rema Harris 140 Highland Dr. STE6 Lebanon, VA 24266	Wythe/Bland County Martha Moody 100 USDA Drive Wytheville, VA 24382 (276) 228-3513
Grayson/Carroll County Ron Hale 968 E Stuart Drive Galax, VA 24333 (276) 236-7191	Russell/Wise/Dickenson County Rema Harris 140 Highland Dr. Ste 6 Lebanon, VA 24266 (276) 889-4650	Smyth County Ron V. Hale 448 Commerce Dr. Abingdon, VA 24211 (276) 783-7280	Washington County Ron V. Hake 448 Commerce Drive Abingdon, VA 24211 (276) 628-8186	